

REMARKS

Claims 1-44, 46-53, and 55-67 were pending in the patent application at the time the Office Action was mailed. Claims 1, 11, and 66-67 are amended by this response and no claims are canceled by this response. Accordingly, claims 1-44, 46-53, and 55-67 remain pending.

The Office Action objects to claim 1 and rejects all pending claims. In particular, the Office Action rejects the pending claims as follows:

a) 66-67 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,124,856 ("Bryan");

b) claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-20, 22-29, 31-38, 40-48, 50-62, and 63-65 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bryan in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,498 ("Chew"); and

c) claims 3, 13, 21, 30, 39, and 49 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bryan in view of Chew and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,305,435 ("Bronson").

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 66-67 to correct minor typographical errors and to more distinctly claim their invention, including the typographical error causing the objection to claim 1.

The following remarks discuss the Bryan reference and applicant's technology. Chew is discussed further below in relation to some independent claims.

Bryan

Bryan describes techniques for employing modeless bar interfaces, which are illustrated in Bryan's Figures 3A-3E and reproduced below for immediate reference.

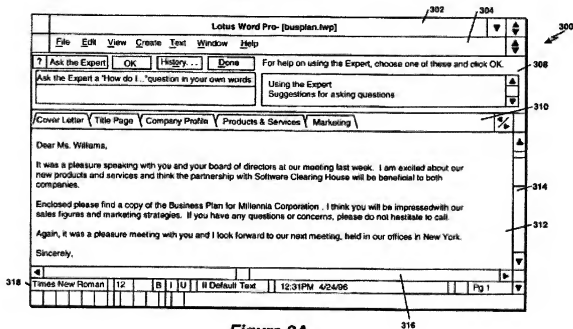


Figure 3A

Figure 3A illustrates Bryan's modeless bar at element 308. As is illustrated therein and described in Bryan at 5:51-6:52, a modeless bar is a user interface element that "contains the same components as [a] dialog box." (Bryan, 6:1-2.) In Bryan's technique, when a modeless bar appears, the "location of previously displayed material [is] modified to accommodate the [modeless bar] so that both can be displayed in a non-obstructed, non-overlapping manner." (Bryan, Abstract.) As an example, Figure 3E illustrates Bryan's simultaneous use of multiple modeless bars, at elements 308, 322, and 324.

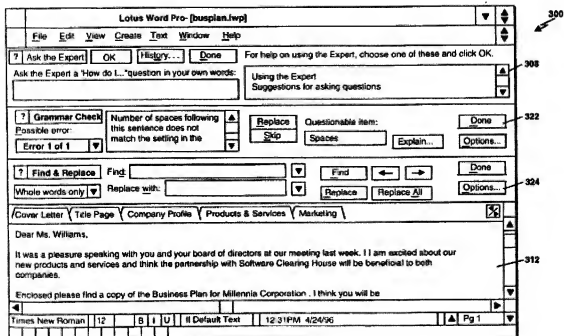


Figure 3E

As is illustrated in Bryan's Figure 3E, the area available for the originally displayed material at element 312 is reduced to accommodate the two additional modeless bars (322 and 324).

Applicant's Technology

Applicant's technology is directed to managing screen real estate in an application's window. The application employs modeless windows that are displayed in a client area of the application's window. The modeless windows can be anchored, such as to an edge of the client area or application window. (See, e.g., applicant's specification at 4:22-24 and anchored windows 520 and 530 in applicant's Figure 8, which is reproduced below for immediate reference.) When a modeless window is anchored, it may be in various states, such as collapsed (e.g., window 530) or open (e.g., window 520). (See also applicant's specification at 6:29.) An anchored window can be pinned open or not pinned. An

anchored window that is not pinned in the open state will automatically return to its collapsed state when input is received that is not near or within the anchored window. (See, e.g., applicant's specification at 7:4-6.) Conversely, when input is received that is near an anchored window that is collapsed, the collapsed modeless window automatically opens. (See, e.g., applicant's specification at 7:6-7.) A window that is pinned open remains open.

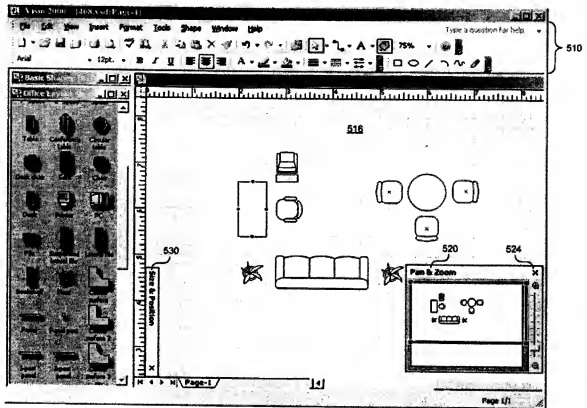


FIG. 8

Analysis

A) Bryan's Modeless Bar Is Not Equivalent to Applicant's Modeless Window

According to the Office Action, Bryan's modeless bar is equivalent to applicant's modeless window. (See, e.g., Office Action, Page 3.) However, there are several differences between Bryan's modeless bar and applicant's modeless window as claimed.

As an example, an anchored collapsed window displays its title adjacent to a side of the document window, as is illustrated by element 530 in applicant's Figure 8. The Office Action indicates that when Bryan's modeless bar is not selected, its menu name is displayed. (See, e.g., Office Action, Page 4.) The Office Action points to Bryan, Figures 3A-3E and 6:1-50. However, Bryan displays nothing when a modeless bar is not selected. Figure 3E of Bryan illustrates an example of displaying multiple modeless bars, including a Find and Replace modeless bar 322. Bryan's Figure 3A illustrates only modeless bar 308. Modeless bar 322 is not selected in Figure 3A and no indication of the Find & Replace function is shown. Thus, Bryan shows nothing when a modeless bar is not selected for display. In contrast, applicant's Figure 8 clearly shows the Size & Position window's title. Claim 1 recites "when the modeless window is in the collapsed state, displaying its identifier without displaying its contents." Claim 11 recites "when the modeless window is in the collapsed state, displaying its identifier without displaying its contents." Claim 36 recites "collapsing the modeless window such that a title bar associated with the modeless window is displayed without displaying the information regarding the application." Claim 47 recites "collapsing the modeless window such that a title bar is displayed when user input selects a display position of the document window that is not near the modeless window." Applicant cannot find such a feature in Bryan or any of the applied references.

B) In Applicant's Technology, An Existing Window Moves

The Office Action indicates that although Bryan neither teaches nor suggests moving a modeless window in response to a user's action, Chew does. (Office Action, Page 11.) Chew is directed to an accessbar arbiter that resolves conflicting requests from screen objects for locations on a video display. (Chew, Abstract.) Chew's accessbar arbiter operates "by receiving requests for proposed locations and by granting the requests if the proposed locations would not conflict with another accessbar. If such a conflict would occur, the [accessbar arbiter] provides an alternate location." (Chew, 1:49-53.) In contrast, when a user moves a modeless window to a location occupied by another modeless window, applicant's technology moves the other modeless window. For

example, claim 19 recites "moving a present location of the first modeless window if a window movement command from a user is received that causes the second modeless window to be moved to a position that would overlap a preferred location of the first modeless window." Similarly, claim 28 recites "moving a present location of the first modeless window if a window movement command from a user is received that causes the second modeless window to be moved to a position that would overlap a preferred location of the first modeless window." Claim 55 recites "receiving a window movement command from a user that causes the second modeless child window to be moved to a position in which it would overlap the first modeless child window in its preferred location; in response to determining that the second modeless child window would overlap the first modeless child window, moving the first modeless child window to a new location in which the second modeless child window does not overlap the first child window." Claim 60 recites "receiving a window movement command from a user that causes the second modeless child window to be moved to a position in which it would overlap the first modeless child window in its preferred location; in response to determining that the second modeless child window would overlap the first child window, moving the first modeless child window to a new location in which the second modeless child window does not overlap the first child window." Thus, applicant's indication of position trumps the preferred position indicated by the other modeless window. The Office Action points to no teaching or suggesting in the applied reference for these features.

Applicant has amended claims 66 and 67 to recite a similar feature. For example, claim 67 now recites "moves the first modeless window when a user moves a second modeless child window to a position that would overlap the first modeless child window."

Conclusion

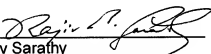
Because the applied references neither teach nor suggest the features discussed above, the independent claims cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) or 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Because the dependent claims import the limitations from the claims on which

they depend, they also cannot be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) or 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Moreover, the claims recite a novel combination of elements that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

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Respectfully submitted,

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